
8.0 RELATION OF SHORT-TERM USES OF MAN'S ENVIRONMENT AND THE MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

The local short-term impacts of the proposed action and the use of resources for it are consistent with the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity for the region. Creation of the project would promote economic development by creating new jobs, specifically higher wage jobs, improve transportation capacity and competitiveness necessary for attracting new businesses and industries to the area, and enhance modal transfer efficiency and interrelationships by providing more shipping capabilities and capacity.

The level of development anticipated provides the basis for improved delivery of services and goods to and from the region. It should enhance the quality of life by reducing highway congestion, improving air quality due to fewer pollutants associated with trucks, preventing fewer accidents, and consuming lower amounts of fuel. These would be achieved through connectivity with waterway and rail transportation and a subsequent reduction in reliance on the truck mode as the primary method of transportation. There would be no discernable difference between the three proposed Alternatives.

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